



S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

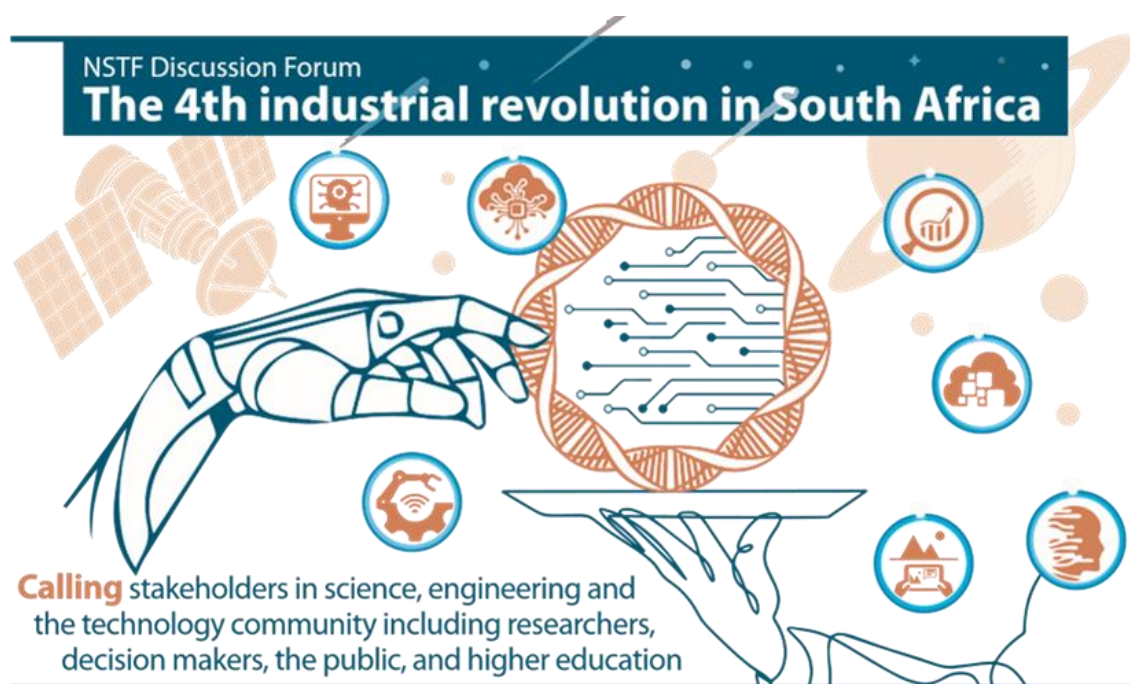
National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

invitation

NSTF-proSET Discussion Forum: Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa

27-28 August 2025

[National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) / [proSET](#) invites you to a discussion forum on the [Fourth Industrial Revolution \(4IR\) in South Africa \(SA\)](#), including artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity. This will be an online event on Zoom on 27-28 August 2025. This event is held under the auspices of [proSET](#) (Professionals in science, engineering and technology), the [professional societies sector](#) of the NSTF.



Join the online conversation and make your voice heard.

Click to [register](#).

Background:

The 4IR is driven by advanced technologies like AI, robotics, blockchain, and the internet of things (IoT), which are transforming industries, economies, and societies worldwide. In SA, embracing 4IR is crucial for addressing socio-economic challenges, including poverty and economic development. The government recognises that these technologies can foster growth, improve public service delivery, and create jobs. However, to fully leverage 4IR technologies, the country must invest in education, training, and awareness, especially in areas like AI, data science, and cybersecurity. While 4IR offers innovative opportunities in science and many other sectors, it also poses challenges such as the digital divide and

cybersecurity risks. By prioritising digital skills development, SA can ensure inclusive growth and remain globally competitive.

Purpose:

Following on previous NSTF Discussion Forums on AI and the 4IR: e.g. [Pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence](#), the NSTF is hosting this discussion forum to provide an update on recent developments, foster ongoing dialogue, and gather critical feedback and potential solutions, with a particular focus on advancing 4IR technologies in SA, while considering the risks involved. It provides a platform for scientists, professionals, government officials and the public to share their insights. See the [concept document](#) on the website for the background.

Objectives:

- **Update participants on 4IR, AI and cybersecurity developments:** Provide the latest insights and advancements related to the 4IR, AI and cybersecurity, highlighting key trends, technologies, and their implications for science and various sectors.
- **Facilitate ongoing dialogue:** Create a platform for open discussion among stakeholders, including government, industry, researchers, academia, and civil society, to exchange ideas and perspectives.
- **Gather critical feedback:** Collect input and suggestions from participants on the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for successfully implementing 4IR technologies.
- **Identify practical solutions:** Collaborate to identify actionable solutions that can address the socio-economic challenges posed by the 4IR, such as skills gaps, the digital divide, infrastructure limitations, privacy and safety.
- **Promote Inclusivity and Innovation:** Focus on how 4IR technologies can drive inclusive growth, improve public service delivery, and foster innovation across key sectors in SA.
- **Collaboration:** Strengthen partnerships and collaboration between government, business, researchers and other key stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of 4IR initiatives in the country.

Themes

- 4IR and advances in astronomy
- 4IR technologies in health and medicine
- 4IR technologies in mining and surveying
- 4IR technologies and the circular economy
- 4IR technologies and water management
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Cybersecurity
- Connectivity
- Safety and privacy

Outputs:

- A [media release](#) will be issued which summarises the most important issues and conclusions
- The following outputs will also be made available on the [NSTF YouTube channel](#):
- Video recordings of speakers' presentations (subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Presentation slides (if available and subject to the speakers' agreement)
- Speakers' biographies
- Useful links (Feel free to let us know should you have any information that you would like us to consider posting here.)
- NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles
- NSTF will post on social media before, during and after the event: on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#)

Delegate registration information

Date: 27-28 August 2025

Time: 09:00-14:00 (on both days)

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions), as well as [ECSA](#) (Engineering Council of South Africa), in collaboration with the Society for Automation, Instrumentation, Mechatronics and Computer Engineering (SAIMC). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

Register (online event): The event is held online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email to confirm your subscription, whereafter you will be diverted to a web page with the Zoom link. Click [here](#) to register.

Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested. Please note that if you do not register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community in SA. The [membership](#) consists of more than 150 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and put forward recommendations.

About the NSTF

The [National Science and Technology Forum](#) (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative [stakeholder body](#) for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around [burning issues of national and global interest](#), across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a [network of professional societies in SET and STEM education](#) (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the [NSTF proSET membership sector](#).
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious [NSTF Awards](#)
- runs and supports collaborative projects and [youth outreach](#), including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the [STEMulator.org](#) which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF proSET)

For more information

www.nstf.org.za

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers, as required by the South African Protection of Personal Information Act.

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